



Sheila Dixon

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 21, 2007

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**Mayor Sheila Dixon Announces Activities at
Annual Back-to-School Rally**

Baltimore, MD (August 21, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon and Department of Housing Commissioner Paul Graziano announced the activities and events taking place at the Mayor's Annual Back-to-School Rally. School-age children from Baltimore City will be given backpack with filled with much needed school supplies.

The rally will take place at Baltimore City School System Headquarters on Wednesday, August 22nd, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. At the event, city agencies will be present to provide information for parents and students to enable the students to have a successful school year. In addition to the backpacks, students will be able to get a complimentary hair cut.

"I believe that this effort will help give our children the right tools to start the school year off right," said Mayor Dixon. "It is our responsibility to send every young person to school ready to learn."

The annual back-to-school rally was first started several years ago by 'Momma' Myrt Howerton. The Mayor's Office, in conjunction with the Office of Community Service, carried on her legacy since she died. The free backpacks will contain notebook paper, pencils, pens, glue, and rulers. This year, 4,000-6,000 youth are expected to attend the event with their parents and guardians.

Sponsors of this event include Radio1/92Q-Jams, Rite Aid, My Barber Shop, the Baltimore Ravens, Freeto-Lay, the Tremont Hotels, Staples, and the "A Son Never Forgets" Foundation, which was founded by Baltimore Ravens' Bart Scott.

Funding for the backpacks comes from the Office Community Services in the Department of Housing and Community Development, which is operated by Deputy Commissioner Reggie Scriber. All backpacks being disbursed to Baltimore City youth are funded by a \$20,000 Community Service Block Grant.

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